Amendments to the Specification

The additions have been indicated by underlining (underlining). The deletions have been indicated by strikethrough (strikethrough).

Please replace the paragraph on page 52 lines 10 through 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Loss of function in 3T3-L1 adipocytes by RNAi technique

In order to stably inhibit Prl-1 expression, 3T3-L1 preadipocytes were engineered by retroviral infection aimed to express a target specific short interfering RNA construct under the control of the human hH1 promoter according to Brummelkamp et al. (Science 2002, Vol 296, p. 550-553). The following Prl-1 specific RNAi sequence was used: AGG ATT CCA ATG GTC ATA G (SEQ ID NO. 14) (SEQ ID NO: 26).